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THE DESCENDANTS OF ADAM DISPENNETT

OF

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Allen County Public Library
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

There have never appeared in print.

7060304

ADAM DISPENNETT, of Rockingham Co., Virginia, came to Licking Co., Ohio, 1802-04, and settled at Hog Run Creek or Linville, 6 miles south of Newark. He was son of Joseph Disposit, married 27 May 1801 at Rockingham Co., Virginia, to MARY MAY, daughter of George and Martha May.

Children:

14 Apr.

- (1) Catherine Dispennette, born 1801, Rockingham Co., Va., married 14 Dec. 1817 at Licking Co., Ohio, to John B. Smith. Catharine died 16 April 1891, Licking Co. John B. Smith was born 1792, died 30 Dec. 1877, Licking Co.

Children:

1. Polly Smith, married _____ Priest. 9 children.
2. Elizabeth Smith, married _____ Cheek. 9 children
3. Sarah Smith, married _____ Priest. 5 children.
4. Joel Smith, b. 20 Feb. 1820, d. 10 Mar. 1907, married Mary _____. 5 child
5. Joseph Smith, married _____. 8 children.
6. Delilah Smith, married _____ Develt. 8 children
7. Alex L. Smith, b. 1834, d. 4 Apr. 1900, married Eliza Jane. 5 children
8. John Smith, married _____. 9 children
9. Catherine Smith, married _____ Banner. 5 children
10. Adam Smith, married _____. 6 children
11. Noah Smith, married Phebe Jane. Noah was soldier, Civil War, d. 1861-65
no children

- (2) John Dispennette, born 1802, Rockingham Co., Va., died 1884, Fairfield, Green Co., O. married Melila Stephenson, daughter of William and Elenor (utton) Stephenson married 4 July 1840. Children: (all born Green Co., Ohio)

1. George Washington Dispennette, b. 13 May 1841, Green Co., Ohio, d. 22 July 1916, unmarried.
2. Sarah Elizabeth Dispennette, b. 2 Dec. 1842, d. 22 Nov. 1843.
3. Jerome Napoleon Dispennette, b. 8 Aug. 1844, d. 26 June 1906, unmarried
4. John Dispennette, Jr., b. 29 Oct. 1846, died 12 Feb. 1931, married Sarah C. Bowers, daughter of _____ and _____

children:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| a. Nettie Dispennette, b. | d. | m. _____ Pearson |
| b. Luther Dispennette, b. | d. | m. _____ |
| c. Bertha Dispennette, b. | d. | m. _____ Greiser. No ch. |
| d. Clifford Dispennette, b. | | m. _____ |
| e. Walter Dispennette, b. | | m. _____ |
5. Samantha Alice Dispennette, b. 8 Dec. 1848, d. 8 Feb. 1872, unmarried
 6. Paulina Dispennette, b. 24 Dec. 1850, d. 3 Jan. 1913, unmarried
 7. Mary Dispennette, b. 8 Apr. 1853, d. 10 Oct. 1942, married William D. Lowry b. 30 Apr. 1856 at Donnelsville, Clark Co., O. d. 16 Oct. 1934 at Leipsic, Putnam Co., O. Son of David W. and Eliza Jane (Layton) Lowry.

Children:

- a. Chester W. Lowry, b. 19 Nov. 1881, Donnelsville, Clark Co., O. married May Phipps of Leipsic, O. She is dead. Children are Harry, Josephine, John and Mary.
- b. John W. Lowry, b. 11 June 1883, Donnelsville, married Martha Lillian Myers of Bluffton, Wells Co., Ind.
- c. William J. Lowry, Jr., b. 26 Apr. 1885, Donnelsville, married Lillian Mack of Lima, Allen Co., O. Children.
8. David Dispennette, b. 26 Feb. 1855, died 18 Jan. 1937, married 25 March 1880 to Ida Miller. Children:
 - a. Zola Dispennette, b. 14 Feb. 1888, Mad River Twp., Clark Co., O., married _____ Elack.
 - b. Roy D. Dispennette, b. 11 Feb. 1893. Dead
 - c. Ethel Dispennette, b. 19 Apr. 1895. Unmarried. Living at Medway, Ohio.

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Children of John and Delila (Stephenson) Dispennette, continued.

~~xxxxxxDispennette~~

9. Margaret Anna Dispennette, b. 19 June 1857, died 2 July 1940 at Dayton, O. Married 1887 to John Kesler, b. 19 Jan. 1850, of Clark Co., O., died 30 March 1929. Son of Jacob and Mary (Funderburg) Kesler. Child:

a. Laurel E. Kesler, b. 5 Aug. 1888, Clark Co., O., married 1916 to Mary Whitmer, b. 20 Feb. 1887, dau. of Clint and Nettie (Bashore) Whitmer. Children:

(a) Kathleen Annette Kesler, b. 30 Jan. 1917, married 1940 to Harold Anyeart, born 16 Feb. 1915 at Troy, Miami Co., Ohio, son of Charles and Edith (Zeigenfelder) Anyeart. Children, 2 sets of twins, Peter and Penney Anyeart b. 4 Nov. 1941. Jackie and Judy Anyeart, b. 1 July 1947.

(b) Maxine Kesler, b. 27 March 1918 in Montgomery Co., O., married 1937 to Paul Robinson, born 15 May 1915 at Hinton, Ky., son of Eugene and Delilah (Clayton) Robinson. Children: Laurel Gene Robinson, b. 15 May, 1939, and Michael Lee Robinson, b. 27 July 1942.

(c) Mary Lee Kesler, b. 30 Nov. 1920. Army nurse.

10. Lenna May Dispennette, b. 12 Jan. 1861, d. 27 Nov. 1917. Unmarried.

Children of Adam and Mary (May) Dispennette, contd.

(3) Jacob Dispennette, b. Licking Co., O., married Margaret McCall. Children:

1. Lucy Ann Dispennette
2. John Dispennette
3. Thomas Dispennette (Killed Civil War)
4. Mary Jane Dispennette
5. William Dispennette
6. Noah Dispennette
7. Eliot Dispennette
8. Abraham Dispennette
9. Joseph Dispennette

10. Sarah Palmelia Dispennette, married _____ Young. Large family.

11. Andrew Jackson Dispennette. Br. in Kalamazoo, Mich.

12. daughter, m. Charles Shean.

(4) Sarah Dispennette, b. Licking Co., O., married William Burnside. 4 children

(5) Joseph Dispennette, b.

(6) George Dispennette, b.

my line (7) Polly Dispennette, b. married John Wise, music teacher and shoemaker from Virginia. Children:

X1. Margaret Wise, b. abt. 1833, Licking Co., O., died 1902-3, married Samuel Elijah Shaffer. Have descendants complete.

2. Sarah Ann Wise, b. 21 Feb. 1838, Licking Co., O., d. 4 Dec. 1921, married 9 Dec. 1855 to Joseph Ferrel. Have descendants.

3. Adam D. Wise, married 8 Oct. 1863 to Harriet B. Lawrence.

4. Frank Hamer Wise, m. Golda Shamerhorn. Deputy near Coffeyville, Kans.

5. Nellie Wise, m. 27 Sep. 1870 to Thomas Ross.

6. Annie Wise, m. 9 Oct. 1875 to Levi A. Stump; m. (2) to Peckham.

7. Charles Wise, m. 5 Apr. 1883 to Mattie C. Evans.

8. Jennie Wise, m. Silas Priest.

(8) David Dispennette, married Elizabeth Stephenson, sister to Delila--wife of John Dis p.

(9) Noah Dispennette.

(10) Rachel Dispennette, married _____ Huffman, had dau. Minnie Huffman.

(11) Abraham Dispennette, b. 1817, died 1900. Married Ann Frances.

(12) Elizabeth Dispennette(?)

686 East 4 North, Provo, Utah
March 5, 1949

Mrs. H. G. Misselhom
229 Newvum Avenue
Kendallville, Indiana

Dear Cousin -

I was indeed thrilled to receive your letter addressed to Mrs. Benn of the Hartford Times, regarding my inquiry on Adam Fulk and Mary Dispenny-Desponet. I do welcome correspondence with you, as I have found the Dispenny-Dispennet, name very elusive. I am copying all the data I have gleaned on this family *Early data*. You may have some or all of it already, but to avoid duplication of efforts should you desire to do research on this name, I am sending the information I have. I have hunted many years, but did not actually make a showing until about 1½ years ago, or I should state it 1 year ago. Since then I have a new baby, and we have had a whalloping winter here so that I could not drive to Salt Lake City to glean at the historical library. We are but 45 miles from Salt Lake City, but have a mountain pass half-way up there and the roads have been dangerous. We now have had one-week of melting weather and I am terribly enthusiastic to get up there soon.

This name is spelled Dispony, Dispeny, Disponet, Despennitt, Dispennette, Dispony. These spellings are all found in Rockingham Co., Va., records. I descend through Mary Dispenny Fulk's brother Adam Dispennette, as the spelling has come down to us. My 3rd great grandfather Adam could not write, as he signed his marriage bond with an "x"--for this reason, I think a family name can alter as to spelling. The party to whom it is dictated spells what he hears, and he does not always hear the consonants correctly.

Do you have a list of the children of Adam and Mary Fulk? I would greatly appreciate having them, to make my records more complete. They did not have a large family, did they? Their marriage was in 1800. Her cemetery record states (according to your letter) that she died aged 82 yrs. in 1844. That would put her birth approximately 1762-3, and she would have been 37-38 at the time of her marriage. She did not need a consent note (given where children are under the age of 21). But notice that the author of the book from which I took the record adds an "a"--which indicates that in her marriage bond the surety (who was my 3rd great grandfather Adam) gives Mary's age. This would prove whether she was born about 1762-3, and do away with any doubts we might have that the Mary and Adam Fulk tombstone records you sent are for the same couple.

Do you have your Fulk line established past this Adam Fulk? Among my notes I have record of John Fulk, tithed on 4 horses, indicating he had a son Jacob over age of 16. It seems that in 1792 the people were assessed upon the no. of horses they owned; the individual possessing many horses was considered well-to-do. Note this tithing record on my accompanying sheet. Rudle and Ruble are used interchangeably in the records. This George Rudle may have been the individual married to Barbara Dispony, sister to your Mary and my Adam. They lived close together, the Fulks, Rudles, and Disponets. And these are Rockingham Co., Va., records. Rockingham Co. was established in 1778.

Note the abstract of survey showed Joseph Desponet (whom I consider the father of our clan) with 189 acres, Parting Run, West Gap, February 27, 1773. With Rockingham Co. established in 1778, I wonder what the name was previously.

I am of the opinion that our common ancestor was this Joseph Desponet; he probably was the father of the children married between 1788 and 1801, whose records I give herewith. I do not know for sure that he served in the revolution

He would be of a correct age. I have written to the Adjutant General's Office (War Dept.) also the National Archivist, both at Washington, D.C., asking for Rev. record of Joseph Desponet, or any individual with spellings of Desponet, Desponant, Dispony, Dispeny, Dispennet, Dispionit, and they have found no record. They confessed their records were not complete and referred me to the State Librarian, Harrisburg, Penn., and State Librarian at Richmond, Va., to whom I wrote.

Oct. 19, 1948

The State Librarian at Richmond, Va., sent me a form letter "I regret to say that the Virginia State Library is unable to undertake the time-consuming work of furnishing genealogical information, including records of Revolutionary soldiers, soldiers of the war of 1812 or colonial soldiers. We must refer persons wishing such information to investigators not connected with the library who may be employed for the purpose. These investigators have access not only to all the material in this library but also to the material in the Land Office of Virginia, the library of the Virginia Historical Society, and other depositories in Richmond and elsewhere in the State of Virginia. I suggest that you write to Miss Ann de R. W. Reddy, 1005 East Marshall Street, Richmond, Virginia. Very truly yours, R. W. Church, State Librarian." I felt disappointed in the department's attitude. However, you probably know what it amounts to to hire a professional. This is my hope now--the Salt Lake City library has been microfilming all the records in Virginia. If these records have not been made available yet, they will be very soon. Keep your fingers crossed that the record we want is to be found.

The State Librarian at Harrisburg, Penn., was very gracious and bent herself over backwards. (I had heard that the Dispennets were Penn. Dutch, and I expected our records to be in Penn.--but later learned we came from Va.-- I think our family first settled in Penn. then drifted with the general influx into Va., thence westward into Ohio, Ind., Ill., Neb., etc.) - Back to subject-- State Librarian's Office, Harrisburg, Pa. Letter dated May 13, 1948. "Your letter of May 10, relating to the Dispennets is at hand. We are inclined to consider this name to be French rather than Dutch. Many of the French Huguenots fled from France, into Holland, Germany and other countries; later coming to America when William Penn offered Pennsylvania as a haven to those persecuted because of religion. We find the name Jacob Dispion on the passenger list of the ship "Bellinder London" which arrived at the port of Philadelphia and took the Oath of Allegiance to the Government, January 10, 1739. The Captain of the ship testified that the men whose names appeared on the list were of the age of 16 years and upwards. There is just one reference to this name in the PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES, it is in the SIXTH SERIES, VOLUME V, page 529 and only the last name is given -----Dispennet, on a Return of the Fifth Company of the fourth Regiment of the City of Philadelphia in the year 1794. This probably was a descendant of Jacob, as even if he had been 16 years of age when he arrived, he would have been 71 in 1794. No doubt he was much older as his name does not appear on the rolls of those who fought in the Revolutionary War. If you wish a photostatic copy of the ship list, showing the signature of Johann Jacob Dispionit, it can be made for you for twenty-five cents. Trusting you find the above information of interest, I am Very Sincerely yours, Mrs. L. H. Davenport, Acting Archivist."

Pursuant to this letter I wrote for a photostatic copy of this ship list and the Oath of Allegiance. These are the same individual, Jacob Dispion and Johann Jacob Dispionit. The ship list was written by the captain of the ship and I presume our ancestor (if he be ours?) dictated his name--he went by Jacob and the captain just heard Dispion. The Oath of Allegiance dated the same day is signed in our ancestor's own writing. It is beautiful too. He signed the "s" as we write "f", as the folks did in his generation. He did not show any German influence, no curls, no German script. It is large and masterful. Most of the other signatures were German, decidedly. This good penmanship verifies

in my mind the opinion expressed the the Penn. Librarian that our man was Huguenot. These French people were of high-middle class, well educated, with Calvinistic ideals. This Dispionit could easily have been the father of the Joseph "Desponet" who owned land in 1773, Parting Run, West Gap, Va.

I have since looked in the 1790 census of Penn. for any individual with the name spelled variously. There isn't the slightest inkling of any of our people at that time. This leads me to believe that they had scattered to remote parts (if Penn.) where no census takers came.

I endeavored to look into the 1790 census for Virginia the last two times I was at Salt Lake library, but the book was being rebound. So I have contained my suspense. There are several other books there I am eager to check in, and those microfilms. I shall inform you of any finds. Let me know the books you have checked so that I will not duplicate efforts.

It is too bad those Penn. Archives gave no further data on this Rev. War man, just his last name. The name "Despenney" should be ours, as so many records we have or members of this clan are shortened to Despenney or Dispeny. This archivist in Penn. should be reliable, with all her experience. She has the conviction that this is the same family, and the Despenney is a son of Dispionit.

Back to your cemetery records. There is mention "Harters" One brother of your Mary and my Adam married "Mary Harter". The latter's brother or father could have accompanied Mary and Adam Fulk to Indiana. No doubt all or most of those cemetery records will prove of relation to Fulk or Dispennet family.

My Adam settled around Newark, Licking Co., O. That is the eastern part of Ohio. Yours finally landed at Noble Co., Ind. I am wondering if your folks settled in Ohio earlier and moved westward with he drove, or if they went to Ind. straight from Va. If the latter case, your folks undoubtedly left Va. at a later date than my Adam, when the boundary of the frontier had moved farther westward.

I had better stop, as this letter is becoming too lengthy and I will weary you to begin with. I am very eager to hear from you, as this letter will indicate. Your informative letter and evidence of searching in the Hartford Times leads me to believe you are enthusiastic too, and I assure you I will keep in contact with you and write of any information I find. You are very, very welcome to all my data.

If you have the children of Adam and Mary D. Fulk, I would be pleased to have them. Even your lineage to the present generation, should you find the time to copy it.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to put our records in good form, some time, and place them in the libraries where they would be available to all. This Dispennet family has been so elusive. And each year makes it that much more difficult to line up. It is up to us to more deeply impress their footsteps on the sands of time.

I did forget to mention the "tradition" our family has passed down that we had a grandfather Dispennet in the Rev. War. One relative I have contacted said her mother remembers going up stairs in ^{her} grandfather Adam Dispennet's home and seeing in his closet a Rev. War soldier uniform. It must have been Adam's father's. Let me know how this D.A.R. program of marking graves of daughters of Rev. soldiers works out in the case of your Mary. Hope the data I give will help solve some problems.

Sincerely, your cousin

Grace H. Croft

Grace H. Croft (Mrs.)

Reference:

Marriages 1778-1816, Va-R a c, Strickler, 1928 - Rockingham Co., Va., Clerk's Office

Year 1788, John Dispony married Mary Harter, daughter of George Harter

" 1791, Joseph Dispeny married Margaret Rust, widow. Surety: George Ruble.

is this Joseph dr. or a son Joseph?

" 1794, Margaret Disponet married Jacob (Fulk) She was a daughter of Joseph Despenit. Consent note by Joseph Despennitt. Surety, George Dive and George Ruble.

(Consent notes were given where children were under age of 21)

" July 5, 1796, Barbara Dispony married George Ruble. Surety, John Mathias.

X " 1800, Mary Dispony married Adam Fulk, Daughter of Joseph Dispony. Surety Adam Dispony (a) ("a" indicates that age of Mary is given)

" 27 May 1801. Adam Dispony (Dispheny) married Mary May, daughter of George May. Consent note by George and Martha May. Surety: Daniel May.

Reference:

Va R af, Land grants 1761-1791, Rockingham Co., Va. Abstract of Surveys, p. 224

Joseph Desponet, 189 acres, Parting Run, West Gap, Feb. 27, 1773

Reference:

Va R 2b, p. 32. 10th Legion Tithables, Rockingham Co., Va., 1792

(Ruble?) 7th Legion,
Captain John Ruddles Co. (north of No. 6 and south of No. 9)

5 horses - Desponet, Joe 1 son Jacob, about 16

2 " Desponet, John

2 " Rudle, George (Ruble?)

4 " Fulk, John - 1 son Jacob about 16

Reference:

Va R 2d - p. 128, Communicant of Peaked Mt. Church - Jacob Deponen, Nov. 6, 1840.

^ If you haven't checked this age notation, let me know, & I will write, if you wish.

It is my belief that the Jacob and Noah Dispennet mentioned among the tax records of Swan Twp., Noble Co., 1844, 1849, 1848, 1849, are sons of my Adam Dispennet. Now this Jacob Dispennet could be the brother to my Adam. Or this Jacob and Noah Dispennet could be father and son (Jacob a son of my Adam--and Noah a grandson of my Adam). But I believe they are more likely to be sons of my Adam.

Inasmuch as you are so interested in gathering records for the D.A.R., you would have concern for my Wise line. This has been another elusive line, because of the common name, John Wise. (Now you probably are more concerned over Noble County old families--but these folk may have sifted in there--and you have checked into Licking Co., Ohio, records.) There is no history in the D.A.R. to take care of this John Wise and his progenitor that I can find, so I hope sometime to have it complete for you. This John Wise married Polly Dispennette (child #7 of Adam Dispennette). John Wise's forebear, as tradition handed to me gives it, played an interesting role in the Revolution. He knew Cornwallis personally and entertained him at his home in Virginia. The King of England asked Cornwallis to look up Wise the first thing as he thought Cornwallis could bribe him. Cornwallis and Wise sat at the table together and ate mush and milk. (The dishes from which Cornwallis ate are said to have been preserved by the Wise family, and were in possession of Jennie Wise Priest. A museum offered \$50,000 for them, I was told by my grand uncle.) (I cannot locate any descendants of this Jennie Wise Priest, child #8 of Polly Dispennette and John Wise on sheet #2.) Cornwallis asked Wise why he was fighting for the colonial cause, when he "would never get anywhere or anything by it" and stated if Wise "fought for England, he would be fighting for his own people," and "would have a better time of it." To this Wise answered, "I am fighting for liberty and I am going to have it if I die getting it." Cornwallis' answer was, "You are so determined about it, I'll not fight hard against you."



